

## Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 OPR-02 NIC-01 RSR-01 /097 W

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P 041531 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5679

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS, SP

SUBJECT: CABINET MEETING IN WAKE OF DEMONSTRATIONS

1. THE SPANISH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IS MEETING TODAY IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION. NORMALLY THE COUNCIL MEETS EVERY TWO WEEKS AND LAST MEETING WAS HELD APRIL 27.
2. THE APPARENT REASON FOR TODAY'S SPECIAL MEETING IS THE PUBLIC ORDER QUESTION ARISING FROM MAY DAY SLAYING OF POLICEMAN IN DEMONSTRATIONS IN DOWNTOWN MADRID AND SUBSEQUENT EVENTS. ON MAY 2 THERE WERE SEVERAL SPEECHES BY ULTRA- RIGHT MEMBERS IN CORTES CALLING FOR HARSH REPRESSION OF DISSIDENTS AND RETURN TO VALUES OF NATIONALISTS IN CIVIL WAR.
3. POLICEMAN'S DEATH HAS AROUSED WIDESPREAD SHOW OF SYMPATHY AND, IN SOME CASES, EXTREMIST SENTIMENTS. PRINCE JUAN CARLOS AND PRINCESS SOFIA MADE WIDELY PUBLICIZED VISIT TO HOSPITAL WHERE ADDITIONAL POLICE OFFICERS INJURED IN MAY 1 MELEE ARE UNDER TREATMENT.
4. VICE PRESIDENT CARRERO BLANCO PINNED POSTHUMOUS MEDAL ON COFFIN OF DECEASED POLICEMAN AT SECURITY HEADQUARTERS. WHEN FUNERAL SERVICE CONCLUDED, COFFIN WAS TO BE PLACED IN HEARSE AND DRIVEN TO LEON. INSTEAD, A LARGE NUMBER OF UNIFORMED AND PLAINCLOTHES POLICEMEN ACCOMPANIED BY SIZEABLE SYMPATHETIC CROWD, PARADED COFFIN FROM

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PUERTA DEL SOL THROUGH DOWNTOWN MADRID AMID SHOUTS OF " DEATH TO THE REDS, LONG LIVE SPAIN" AND OTHER RIGHTIST SLOGANS. ALTHOUGH SLAIN POLICEMAN BELONGED TO FORCES OF SECURITY CHIEF COL. BLANCO, GENERAL CARLOS INIESTA CANO, HEAD OF THE GUARDIA CIVIL, NEVERTHELESS TOOK MOST PROMINENT PART IN DEMONSTRATION. DURING PART OF THE UNSCHEDULED CORTEGE GENERAL INIESTA CONSPICUOUSLY ACTED AS PALL-BEARER.

5. MODE OF POLICEMEN DURING UNRULY MAY 2 DEMONSTRATION WAS OF MANIFEST DISCONTENT OVER ORDERS THEY HAD RECEIVED TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT AGAINST MAY DAY DEMONSTRATORS.

6. GENERAL SITUATION IN MADRID IS NORMAL AND THERE ARE NO APPARENT MAJOR THREATS TO PUBLIC ORDER.  
RIVERO

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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